

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 892
Cadillac, MI 49601

“The Tie that Binds”

September 2018

Newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC
Cadillac, MI

Margie Annis, Music Director

Patrick Delaney, Treasurer

Penny Phelps, Administrator

Marie Linn, Clerk

Rachel Whiteman, Secretary/Organist

Karen Rowley, Newsletter Editor

Laura Jacobson-Pentces, Chair of Trustees

Church service is Sunday morning 10:30 a.m.

Childcare available.

The church is open on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Minister: John Doud pastor@firstcongcadillac.org (231) 775-7632

Office email: office@firstcongcadillac.org

Web Site: www.firstcongcadillac.org

WHY BELONG TO A CHURCH?

1. I should belong to the church because I ought to be better than I am. Henry Ward Beecher once said: "The church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones."

2. I should belong to the church because of what I can give to it and do through it, as well as because of what I may get out of it. The church is not a dormitory for sleepers; it is an institution of workers. It is not only a rest camp; it is a front-line trench.

3. I should belong to the church because every person should pay his or her debt and do his or her share toward discharging the obligation of society.

4. I should belong to the church because of memories: memories of things I can never forget; memories of faces that will never fade; memories of vows that are the glory of youth.

5. I should belong to the church because of hope: hope that lives when promises are dead; hope that paves the way for progress; hope that visions peace and social justice; and hope for all time to come.

6. I should belong to the church because of the strong people in it who need reinforcing, the weak people in it who need encouraging, the rascals in it who need rebuking (including myself). If I say that I am not good enough, my humility recommends me. If I sit in the seat of the scornful, my inactivity condemns me.

7. I should belong to the church because I am ready to join a going concern, and I am willing to become an active and equal partner in service to others.

I'll close with a quote by Thomas Merton:

"To be unknown of God is altogether too much privacy."

Blessings and Peace be with you.

~ Submitted by Dave Engel, minister of the Lewiston Congregational Church of Christ

Adapted from Daniel A. Poling



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

We are getting very close to completing all the requirements for applying for a 501(c)(3) certificate of tax-exempt status. Once we have that status, we can move forward with our grant application with the goal of installing a handicap-accessible front door.

This last step involves amending our Articles of Incorporation. They were adopted in 1941 and used wording that the IRS does not recognize today. Article 3 is identified as describing the Object of the church: “That its object has been and shall continue to be to maintain the public worship of God and to labor together as a Church according to the faith and usages of the Churches commonly called Congregational.”

The IRS requires that the Articles of Incorporation describe the Purpose of the church, using the following description: “The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future tax code.”

In addition, the amendment will provide the following information (which is in our bylaws but not the Articles of Incorporation): “Upon dissolution of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Cadillac, Michigan, its assets and all property and interests of which it shall then be possessed, including any devise, bequest, gift, or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be transferred to the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ.”

This proposed amendment has been approved by the Board of Trustees, but it must be voted on by the congregation before the amendment can be forwarded to the State of Michigan. Therefore, there will be a brief meeting and paper ballot vote following the worship service on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

Below are the changes that you will be voting on:

The Articles of Incorporation of the First Congregational Church of Cadillac, MI were adopted Oct. 3, 1941.

Article 3 Object reads as follows:

That its object has been and shall continue to be to maintain the public worship of God and to labor together as a Church according to the faith and usages of the Churches commonly called Congregational.

There is no article that is labeled Purpose. “Purpose” and “Object” are synonymous, but the IRS won’t accept that.

We are amending the Articles of Incorporation so that it reads as follows:

Article 3 Purpose

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes, including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Upon dissolution of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Cadillac, Michigan, its assets and all property and interests of which it shall then be possessed, including any devise, bequest, gift, or grant contained in any will or other instrument, in trust or otherwise, made before or after such dissolution, shall be transferred to the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Note: This last part, while clearly stated in our bylaws, was not part of the Articles of Incorporation and needed to be added.

CHOIR 2018-2019

Our first rehearsal will be at **7 pm on Thursday, September 6.** I look forward to a new fresh approach to defining ourselves as a choir! Please feel welcome and needed.

~ Margie Annis, Director of Music

GUEST SPEAKER: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

John Wolff, a Buddhist Teacher and Zen practitioner, will join us to share his personal journey into Buddhism during worship on Sunday, September 30th at 10:30 a.m. Following worship, John will present a program on Buddhism in Fellowship Hall, and there will be time afterwards for questions. We are excited to have John Wolff with us for this very special event. Please join us and extend him a very warm welcome!

John Gendo Wolff, Sensei, has been a Zen practitioner for over 30 years and serves as Guiding Teacher of Great Wave Zen Sangha in Luddington, Michigan. He received Jukai (lay ordination) from Dennis Genpo Merzel, Roshi, on August 1, 1992. On July 15, 2006, he was ordained as a priest in the White Plum lineage by his teacher Susan Myoyu Andersen, Roshi, and in the summer of 2008 was Shusso (head priest) of the Great Plains Zen Center at Myoshinji–Subtle Mind Temple. In June 2012, he received Dharma Transmission (Shiho) from Myoyu Roshi and is now the resident teacher at Great Wave.



Gendo Sensei is also a writer with numerous publications of poetry in a variety of magazines and in the anthology Beneath a Single Moon: The Legacy of Buddhism in American Poetry. He is also the author of the book, The Driftwood Shrine, a collection of Dharma talks based on the work of several Buddhist-influenced American poets. He currently works as a college professor, is married, and is a father of three.





MOVIES FOR THE MIND

"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions." - William O. Douglas, Supreme Court Justice



Won't you join the conversation?

Movies for the Mind offers thought-provoking and honest documentaries touching on issues of the body, mind, and spirit. From socially-conscious themes to environmental and political matters, MftM presents films from a wide variety of sources, including independent filmmakers, with messages that matter. Films presented have won major awards at festivals ranging from Sundance to Berlin.

When: Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018 - doors open 5:00 pm. Movie begins at 5:30pm.

Where: First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall - 200 E. Harris St
(Across from the Cadillac Post Office)

Cost: Donation.

Film snacks: Bring your own beverage, and any additional movie snacks you would like. Popcorn will be available for purchase.

What to bring: If you want to be really comfortable, bring your own seating (lawn chair, pillow, blanket, etc.) Some folding chairs will be set up but moving to more comfortable arrangements is recommended.

What to expect: A film that often entertains, and certainly makes you think. When the film concludes we have an opportunity for people to share their perspectives and reflections on the movie. Our first film of the 2018-2019 season examines a topic that deserves more conversation. Roughly 17% of the global population (1.2 billion people) live in a state of extreme poverty, subsisting on air and whatever food they stumble upon. Simultaneously, 40% of food in the U.S. goes to waste each year.



Withdrawing into the bubble of everyday life, we excuse ourselves from the suffering of others. That the problem is elsewhere, either thousands of miles or just a few blocks away, motivates us towards indifference. But this is a question of humanity, which undeniably connects us to one another, and is something we can never escape.

EVERY THREE SECONDS examines the gap between **indifference** and **activism** through the stories of five ordinary people who prove that solutions to overwhelming questions do not rest in the hands of superheroes but rather in ours.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

THE BLESSING OF ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

In July, some of our four-legged friends were blessed at an afternoon service here at First Congregational.



~ Thanks to Cam Gines for the photo.

EASY ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Some improvements have recently been made to the ramp at the front of the church. This includes some temporary repairs to the concrete, and the addition of guttering. The latter will prevent the drips that caused that big 'ol patch ice at the top of the ramp!



The ice was a significant hazard in winter for the folks who use the ramp to access the church.

Thank you to Richard Harvey for sorting out this, as well as so many other repairs and improvements to the fabric of the church!



GARDENING



Thanks to Tim Florinki and Ed Goldman for the gorgeous flowers that have brightened up the front of the church this summer.

Many thanks to all who have helped to keep the grounds looking so lovely, and the vegetable beds productive; especially challenging with the recent long spell of hot weather.

Have you ever noticed that we have a peace pole out there? Thanks to Marie Linn for reviving the planter and planting some new plants.



BLOSSOMING TREES

Have you noticed how spectacularly the trees have been blossoming on the Southwest side of the church this year? One of the readers of *Cadillac News* was curious as to what type of trees they are, and contacted their “Ask Rover” correspondent, who in turn contacted us. After some research, they have been identified as Japanese Pagoda trees, non-native trees which were planted by the City.



CHURCH SECURITY

The congregation voted on August 12 regarding the policy of door locking, and a clear majority voted in favor of locking all doors except for the front doors during services.



MORE PHOTOS!

~ from Robin Corbin ~

The Carey family performing Special Music in August



Luke Gines was helping out in the pulpit.



LOOKING AHEAD

ECUMENICAL WEEKEND: *NEW DATE!!*



We have been invited to participate in the worship experience at Temple Beth El in Traverse City on **Friday, November 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm** (rescheduled from May). If you'd like to carpool to Traverse City for this service, please contact Rev. John Doud.

THE WIDER UCC

UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION FALL EVENT



Saturday, September 29, 2018

8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Manistee First Congregational UCC

Facilitator—Miriam Hollar

Be Not Afraid... To Spend Time Alone With God

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held at the First Congregational Church of Charlotte, Michigan on October 12th and 13th, 2018. Conference churches are encouraged to send two delegates. Visitors and guests are also welcome. Register at michucc.org.

UCC WOMEN OF MICHIGAN: TWOCAN PROJECT

Donna Debney is collecting donations on behalf of UCC Women of Michigan for the “TWOCAN” project. You are invited to donate your bottle and can return deposit monies for this project. There is a collection box in Fellowship Hall. All money collected will be sent to Church World Service, which sends supplies to those in need such as health kits, food and other necessities.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUGUST MEETING

Marie Linn, Church Clerk

The Board of Trustees met August 15 at 6:30 p.m.

- The financial report was given. The church is in good shape financially at this time.
- The door security vote was shared.
- Information about upcoming Association and Conference meetings was presented by Rev. Doud. Information about these upcoming meetings will be posted in the newsletter. Anyone interested in attending should contact Rev. Doud or Penny Phelps.
- Some repairs have been completed on the disabled access ramp and gutters on the church building.
- Rev. Doud shared that arrangements are being made to have John Wolff, a Buddhist Monk from Ludington speak to the congregation on September 30th. More details will be shared in the church bulletin.
- The “Movies for the Mind” presentations will begin in September. See information in this newsletter. Additional movie dates will be announced.
- The progress of the 501(c)(3) application was reviewed. Some changes to the wording of the church by-laws is needed to meet IRS requirements before the application can be processed. Changes in wording will be presented to the congregation for a vote on September 9.



COMMUNITY

AFTER 26 CAFE



After 26 is one of our Monthly Mission beneficiaries, a very worthwhile project which employs people with learning difficulties here in Cadillac. The construction work on Cass Street has hit them hard because customers are not able to access the café from the main entrance. They are remaining open during usual hours, and you can get in easily from the other side. Please consider coming to the café during this lean time to help them continue this valuable work.

WE LOVE YOUR SUPPORT

There are many members that donate items to the church in the act of support. To ensure that items are used in the best way possible, the correct process to follow is to introduce your idea to the Board of Trustees for approval. Please contact Laura Jacobson-Pentces who is the current Board of Trustees chair.

In the same manner, the Board of Trustees often makes decisions on carrying out a variety of church needs and requests. If you have a question or suggestion about these decisions, please contact Laura Jacobson-Pentces, Board of Trustees chair.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Congratulations to Sue Wachowski and Dick Calendine on their recent marriage!

Happy Birthday

Troy Knight 2nd, Alice Gines 6th, Jeanne VanderMolen 7th, Leif Davis-Williams 8th, Wesley Trowbridge 15th, Robin Corbin 18th, Theodore Trowbridge 20th, Joyce Oatley 20th, Sam Pentces 21st, Rachel Whiteman 22nd, David Lindamood 23rd, Ruthann French 26th, Katelyn Isaacs 27th, Claudia Burley 28th, Linda Johnson 30th

Happy Anniversary

Angie and Tim Brugger 9/10/82, Gary VanHouten & Shari Spoelman 09/15/95,
Sperry & Gert Claypool 9/4/1954



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
Sep 2	Marie Linn & Pat McCurdy	Jeri Hector	Penny Phelps	Carol Nilsson	John Doud
9	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	Joyce Oatley	Gert & Sperry Claypool	Patrick Delaney	John Doud
16	Ed Goldman & Tim Florinki	Penny Phelps	Volunteers needed	Richard Harvey	Margie Annis
23	Bill and Sue Cinco	Laura Porter	Volunteers needed	Sara Keinath	John Doud
30	George Davis & Leif Williams	Sue Calendine	Volunteers needed	Bob LeVand	John Doud/ John Wolff

September 2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> Worship 10:30 am COMMUNION (in pews)	<u>3</u> LABOR DAY	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>6</u> 7pm Choir	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> RALLY DAY Worship 10:30 am Congregational vote after worship (Articles of Incorporation)	<u>10</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>13</u> 7pm Choir	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> 9:30am Choir MUSIC CELEBRATION SUNDAY Worship 10:30 am	<u>17</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Board of Trustees 6:30 pm	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>20</u> 7pm Choir	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am 5pm for 5:30 Movies for the Mind	<u>24</u> Office 10:30-1:00 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>27</u> NO CHOIR PRACTICE	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u> Worship 10:30 am with John Wolff (Buddhism)	<u>30</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>31</u>	<i>September Mission: Feeding America</i>			

NON-CHURCH ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING:

Jazzercise: Mon: 5:45pm; Tue: 8:30am; Wed 4:30& 5:45; Thu 8:30 & 5:45; Fri & Sat: 8:30am.

Symphony Board: 7pm first Monday of the month.

2018 Missions – - Jan.: Our Church's Wider Mission, Feb.: After 26 Project, March: One Great Hour of Sharing, April: Love, INC, May: Strengthen the Church, June: New Hope Shelter, July: Back Pack Program, August: Shepherd's Table, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need, Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund